

**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Renewable Energy Program  
provided a grant in the amount of \$113,504 to  
La Tierra Plaza**

The grant will be matched by a bank loan in the amount of \$295,111 and cash infusion by the grantee of \$45,402 for a total project cost of \$454,017.

La Tierra Plaza (Sedona, Arizona) installed 297 solar panels on four carport structures to complement the new office space they're building. The 52,000 kilowatt hour photo voltaic system will produce 75 percent of the energy required for the new 15,000 square foot office building.

The new La Tierra office space will primarily receive its electricity from the sun; it will be connected to Arizona Public Service electricity through a grid tied system. APS provides a 1 for 1 kilowatt hours trade, so if the building produces 1,000 kWh in surplus, it will flow into the electrical grid and APS will give back 1,000 kWh when the buildings demand is greater than its supply.

Photo voltaic projects like La Tierra's help reach the state's requirement that 15 percent of energy must come from renewable sources by 2025 says the Arizona Corporation Commission.

By installing the panels as the roof for the carports, they're killing two birds with one stone, producing clean, renewable energy and providing shaded parking for tenants, without the added materials for a roof. The tenants will benefit from the photo voltaic system by a reduced energy bill.

